*[English]*

**Denial of Visa by Pakistan to Indian Pilgrims**

1115. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of recent reports on Pakistan's refusal to grant visas to 400 Indian pilgrims to visit Katasraj in that country:

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(d) whether any memorandum of understanding was signed with Pakistan to allow such visits to various places in both the countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI EDURDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). The Protocol on visits to Religious Shrines, signed between India and Pakistan in September, 1974, provides for pilgrims from either country to visit specified shrines in the other country. At the meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission in July 1989, it was further agreed that there would be two visits to Katasraj every year, with each visiting group comprising 200 pilgrims. One such visit was scheduled for 20-25 October, 1991. On October 15, 1991, Government of Pakistan informed us that the proposed dates for the visit to Katasraj were coinciding with those proposed for another visit by Indian pilgrims to Hayat Pitafi, and that it was difficult to organise two visits at the same time. Since the late cancellation would have caused inconvenience to the intending pilgrims, at Government's request the Government of Pakistan subsequently agreed to the visit. Due to the short time available, however, only 52 pilgrims could undertake the journey.

**Utilisation of Irrigation Potential**

116. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential in the country under major, medium and minor irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the break-up thereof during the last three years. year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cumulative gap in utilisation of irrigation potential at the end of the last three years was an under:-

(*in million ha.*)

| | *1988-89* | *1989-90* | *1990-91* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major & Irrigation | 4.75 | 4.10 | 4.09 |
| Minor Irrigation | 3.06 | 3.18 | 3.48 |

**Acquisition of Land by Public Sector Steel Plants**

1117. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired for public sector steel plants, plant-wise;

(b) the area of land actually being utilized at present and the area unutilized in each plant;

(c) the ultimate purpose for which the plant concerned proposes to make use of the unutilised land; and

(d) whether the plants propose to utilise these lands for any other productive purpose, directly or indirectly, during the interim period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The details are as given below:

**STATEMENT**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Steel Plant | Area Acquired (Acres) | Area Actually utilised (Acres) | Area Unutilised (Acres) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Steel Authorityof India Ltd. & subsidiaries | | | |
| 1. | Bhilai Steel Plant | 22,369.76 | 18,933.22 | 3,436.54 |
| 2. | Durgapur Steel Plant | 16,424.00 | 10,816.00 | 5,608.00 |
| 3. | Rourkela Steel Plant | 19,785.22 | 11,202.00 | 8,583.22 |
| 4. | Bokaro Steel Plant | 31,030.47 | 31,030.47 | ... |
| 5. | Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. | 3,092.39 | 2,776.31 | 316.08 |
| 6. | Alloy Steel plant | 1,154.51 | 1,154.51 | ... |
| 7. | Salem Steel Plant | 3,962.70 | 2,729.00 | 1,233.70 |
| 8. | Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Company Ltd. | 2,211.00 | 1,402.00 | 80.00 |
| 2. | Visakhapatnam Steel Plant | 8,456.32 | 8,456.32 | ... |
| 3. | Vijayanagar Steel Plant | 9,341.73 | 10.00 | 9,331.73 |
| 4. | Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. | 16.74 | 16.74 | ... |

(c) and (d). Individual steel plants of SAIL have plans to use the unutilised acquired lands for further expansion programmes as and when resources permit. Details are given statement below. In respect of Vijayanagar Steel Plant, the land acquired has remained unutilised as an investment decision on this project is awaited.

STATEMENT

1. Bhilai Steel Plant: The vacant land of 3436.54 acres is proposed to be utilised for future expansion of the plant and expansion of township facilities.

2. Durgapur Steel Plant: The vacant land of 5608 acres is proposed to be used for expansion of plant, expansion of township, ancilliary industries, aforestation, environmental parks, etc.

3. Rourkela Steel Plant: Out of 19,785.22 acres of land acquired by RSP, 3788.06 acres is in the process of being handed over the State Government. So the land with RSP is 15,997.16 acres. Out of this unutilised land, 1887.06 acres is covered under lagoons, hills. nallahs. sewerage line, buffer Zone for railway track, air tunnel for airport belt. Area already eroded by rivers and area required for ring road and green belt are also covered under this. Thus, the balance land is only 2,958.10 acres. Out of this, 1172.25 acres is available in the plant Zone and 1785.85 acres in the township zone, which are required for future expansion and modernisation schemes of the plant and for expansion of township respectively.

4. Indian Iron and Steel Company: The acquired but unutilised land of 316. 18 acres is meant for modernisation of IISCO which would consist of adding additional units like cokeovens, Blast Furnaces, Sinter Plant , Steel Melting Shop, Railway yards, Raw Materials storage yards, dumping yards, etc. which will be built on the entire acquired land.

5. Salem Steel Plant: The land acquired for Salem Steel Plant is being utilised in stages to suit the progressive expansion of the plant.

6. Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Co. Ltd: Out of 2211 acres of land acquired by VISL, 192 acres of land has been sold to Government Departments/SSI, etc. and 466 acres of land is under dispute. Hence, the net land in possession of VISL is 1552 acres. Unused land of 150 acres are required for construction of houses for employees.

**Supply of Coal by Coal India Limited to Steel Industries.**

1118. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited is able to meet the requirement of coal for the steel sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the quality of coal supplied to them was also not upto the required standard;

(d) the steps taken/being taken for adequate supply of coal to steel sector/coal based industries; and

(e) the foreign exchange spent on the import of coal during the last two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). The entire coal demand of steel sector could not be met by Coal India Ltd. for the following main reasons:-

(i) The capacity of existing cooking coal mines is depleting;

(ii) Some of the newly identified mines are afflicated by fires, surface structures, etc., and will have a long gestation period before reaching their full capacity;

(iii) Due to part exploitation of superior